

Reference No. 6.20

THE LABOUR FORCE, MAY 1973

This bulletin contains estimates of the civilian labour force, derived from the results of the population survey, which is carried out on a sample basis throughout Australia in February, May, August and November each year. Emphasis in the survey is placed on the collection of data on the demographic and labour force characteristics of the population, but supplementary collections of data on other subjects are made from time to time. The results of supplementary surveys are published in mimeographed bulletins which are available on request.

The survey is based on a sample of dwellings selected by area sampling methods, and information is obtained each quarter from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers during a four-week period on each occasion. There are about 27,000 households in the sample, representing two-thirds of one per cent of all households in Australia. The estimates relate to all persons aged fifteen years and over, except members of the permanent armed forces and certain diplomatic personnel customarily excluded from census and estimated populations.

NOTE. From time to time changes are made to labour force definitions, classifications and estimating procedures. In this bulletin particular attention is drawn to the features listed below. Detailed references will be found in paragraphs 8 to 17 of the explanatory notes (pages 2 to 4).

1. The industry of persons in the labour force is now being classified according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), and there is consequently some discontinuity in the industry estimates.
2. A new sample was introduced during 1972. This appears to have affected comparability between the estimates for February 1972 and those for later periods.
3. All labour force estimates for the period from August 1966 are still subject to revision.
4. Labour force estimates derived from the population surveys of May and August 1971 are not strictly comparable with the results of the June 1971 population census.

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Classification of the labour force

The labour force classification used in the surveys conforms closely to that recommended by the Eighth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, held in Geneva in 1954. The labour force category to which a person is assigned depends on his actual activity (i.e. whether working, looking for work, etc.) during a specified week, known as "survey week", which is the week immediately preceding that in which the interview takes place. The interviews are carried out during a period of four weeks, so that there are four survey weeks in each of the months to which the survey relates. These survey weeks generally fall within the limits of the calendar month. The principal categories appearing in the tables in this bulletin are defined in the following paragraphs.

2. The labour force comprises all persons who, during survey week, were employed or unemployed as defined in paragraphs 3 and 4.

3. Employed persons comprise all those who, during survey week,

- (a) did any work for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business, or on a farm (including employees, employers and self-employed persons), or
- (b) worked fifteen hours or more without pay in a family business (or farm), or
- (c) had a job, business or farm, but were not at work because of illness, accident, leave, holiday, production hold-up due to bad weather, plant breakdown, etc., or because they were on strike.

A person who had a job but was temporarily laid off by his employer for the whole week without pay is excluded, and is classified in the tables as unemployed. A person who did some work during the week, however, before he either lost his job or was laid off, is classified as employed. A person who held more than one job is counted only once, in the job at which he worked most hours during survey week.

4. Unemployed persons comprise all those who, during survey week, did no work at all, and who either

- (a) did not have a job or business and were actively looking for full-time or part-time work (including those who stated that they would have looked for work if they had not been temporarily ill or believed no work was available, or had not already made definite arrangements to start work in a new job after survey week), or
- (b) were laid off from their jobs without pay for the whole week.

A person who either lost his job or was laid off *during* survey week, but did some work at his job during survey week, is classified as employed.

5. Full-time workers are those who usually work 35 hours a week or more and others who, although usually part-time workers, worked 35 hours or more during the survey week.

Part-time workers are those who usually work less than 35 hours a week and who did so during the survey week. When recording hours of work, fractions of an hour are disregarded.

6. Persons not in the labour force are all those who, during survey week, were not in the categories 'employed' or 'unemployed' as defined. This category therefore includes persons without a job, business or farm who were not actively looking for work, and who, during the survey week, were either keeping house (unpaid), attending an educational institution (e.g. school or university), retired or voluntarily idle, permanently unable to work or inmates of institutions. A person who worked less than fifteen hours without pay in a family business during survey week is also classified as not in the labour force.

7. At the 1971 population census, *trainee teachers* (enrolled at government teachers colleges and in some cases enrolled also at other institutions) were for the first time classified as not in the labour force, and since then they have also been excluded from labour force estimates derived from the population survey. Exclusion of these students constitutes a break in the series between May and August 1971, the numbers of males and females excluded from the labour force in August 1971 being approximately seven thousand and seventeen thousand respectively.

Industry classification

8. In quarterly and annual Labour Force bulletins prior to November 1972 the industry estimates were based on the Classification of Industries used at the 1961 and 1966 population censuses. As from November 1972 industry has been classified according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC). Estimates for particular industries for November 1972 and later periods are not, therefore, directly comparable with those for August 1972 and earlier. In Table 1, estimates of the numbers of males, females and persons employed in agriculture and in other industries have been shown for August 1972 on both bases in order to facilitate comparison.

9. During the changeover to the use of the Australian Standard Industrial Classification the industry of persons in the labour force was classified according to both ASIC and the 1966 Population Census Classification for five consecutive surveys. An indication of the relationship between the two classifications was given by Tables 8 and 9 in the combined November 1972 and February 1973 issue of this bulletin, in which employed persons were classified by industry on both bases for the period August 1971 to August 1972. Unemployed persons classified by their last job according to ASIC were shown in Table 21 and 22 for the period August 1971 to February 1973.

Birthplace and year of arrival in Australia

10. A summary of the principal statistics of birthplace and year of arrival is given in Table 2. For the reasons given in paragraph 11 on page 16, any very small estimates shown in Table 2 should be used with caution. It is particularly important that the likely standard errors of such estimates be kept in mind. For example, although the number of persons who had arrived in Australia in the period January 1972 to May 1973 and who were unemployed in May 1973 is given as 5,400, this is not a precise measure; the approximate standard error of this estimate suggests that there are about nineteen chances in twenty that the figure obtained from a complete enumeration would have been within the wide range of 3,600 to 7,200. The corresponding estimated percentage (5.8) is subject to almost the same relative sampling variability as is the estimate of the number unemployed.

Effect of the new sample

11. As explained on page 15, the new sample was phased in over three surveys, May to November 1972. The February 1972 estimates were based entirely on the old sample, and the November 1972 estimates were based entirely on the new sample. Investigation of the changes brought about by the introduction of the new sample will not be completed for some time, but it appears, from information already available, that some discontinuity has occurred, particularly in the estimates for married women in the labour force. For this reason, care should be taken in interpreting changes in the estimates for the period between February and November 1972.

Revision of present estimates

12. The survey estimates are calculated in such a way as to conform to the independently estimated distribution of the population by age and sex. As a consequence, when the population estimates are revised it becomes necessary to revise the labour force estimates also.

13. Estimates of total population, revised on the basis of the 1971 population census, were published for the period 30 September 1966 to 30 June 1972 in the bulletin *Summary of Vital and Population Statistics, June quarter 1972* (Reference No. 4.11). These indicate that the estimates that were used for the population surveys in mid-1971 were, overall, some 55,000 persons too high. The revised estimates classified by age over the intercensal period, which are necessary to enable the revision of the labour force estimates to be carried out, are not yet available. In the meantime, the estimates in this bulletin will continue to be published on the present basis, since they are regarded as sufficiently accurate for the measurement of short-term movements. However, caution should be exercised if they are used as indicators of longer-term change.

14. A preliminary assessment of the effect of the revised population estimates indicates that it will be necessary to reduce the level of the estimated labour force from August 1971 onwards by about 28,000 persons (mostly males). Successively smaller revisions will be made to the estimates for earlier periods back to August 1966.

Differences between population census and population survey estimates

15. Results of the 1971 population census have been published in a series of bulletins entitled *Summary of Population* (Reference No. 2.83). The labour force estimates from the June 1971 census differ from the corresponding estimates derived from the population surveys of May and August 1971. Even when, as explained in paragraphs 12 to 14 above, the labour force estimates from the survey have been revised, this difference will still be substantial.

16. The definition of the labour force used in the population census is similar to that used in the survey. (See paragraphs 1 to 7.) However, evidence from census post-enumeration surveys indicates that the personal interview approach, as used in the quarterly survey, tends to identify a larger number of persons as being in the labour force than does the filling in of the questions on the census schedule by the householder, and that this tendency increased between the 1966 and 1971 censuses.

17. These considerations should be borne in mind if comparisons of the total labour force or of labour force participation rates are made between the 1971 census and the 1971 labour force survey estimates.

Estimates for earlier periods

18. The principal items in this bulletin are shown for the six latest quarters. Greater detail is given for the latest quarter only. A wider range of detailed estimates for each quarter from February 1964 to November 1971 has been published in bulletins entitled *The Labour Force*, covering the period 1964 to 1968 and single years thereafter (all Reference No. 6.22). Particulars for the year 1972 will be published shortly.

19. The survey periods for February 1971 and February 1972 were later than in other years, and as a consequence the estimates of the proportion of the population 15 years and over who "went to school" are correspondingly higher. No exact estimates of this effect are available; however, it may be conjectured that had the survey periods in February 1971 and February 1972 been one week earlier approximately twenty thousand fewer persons would have been classified in the "went to school" category.

Seasonally adjusted series

20. Seasonally adjusted estimates for selected labour force characteristics are shown in Table 3. Details of the methods used in seasonally adjusting these statistics are explained in *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators, 1973*.

Symbols used in this bulletin

- Break in continuity of series (where drawn across a column between two successive figures).
 * Less than or based on a figure less than 4,000. See page 16, paragraph 11.

NOTE. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in tables are due to rounding.

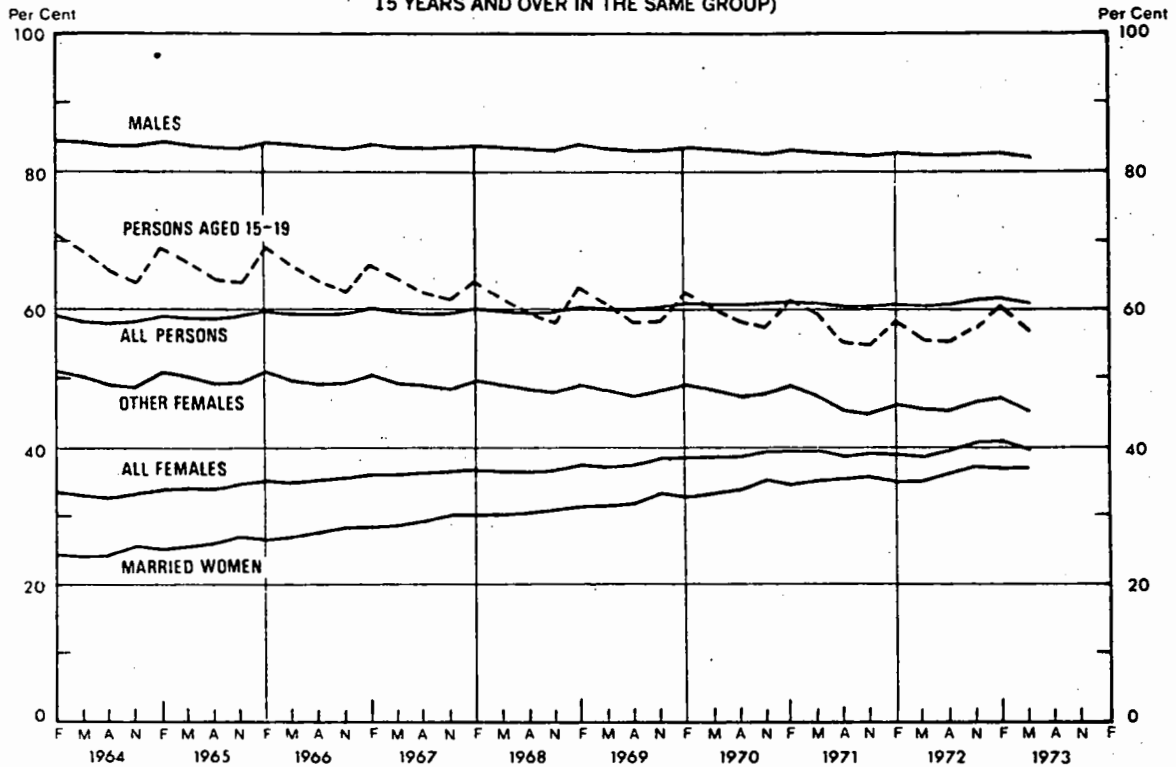
CIVILIAN POPULATION, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS : SUMMARY, MAY 1973 (a)

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
NUMBER ('000)			
Civilian population aged 15 and over	4,652.8	4,727.2	9,380.0
Not in the labour force	839.0	2,839.9	3,678.9
In the labour force	3,813.8	1,887.3	5,701.1
Employed	3,763.1	1,837.8	5,600.9
In full-time jobs	3,633.9	1,333.6	4,967.5
In part-time jobs	129.2	504.2	633.4
Unemployed	50.7	49.5	100.2
Looking for full-time work	45.1	33.1	78.3
Looking for part-time work	5.6	16.3	21.9
RATES (Per cent)			
Labour force participation rate (b)	82.0	39.9	60.8
Unemployment rate (c) —			
Original	1.3	2.6	1.8
Seasonally adjusted	1.4	2.7	1.8

(a) For a note on persons excluded see page 1. Definitions of the categories of the population shown in the table are given on page 2. (b) The labour force in each group as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 and over in the same group. (c) The unemployed as a percentage of the civilian labour force.

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES

(THE LABOUR FORCE IN EACH GROUP AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER IN THE SAME GROUP)



UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

(THE UNEMPLOYED IN EACH GROUP AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE CIVILIAN LABOUR FORCE IN THE SAME GROUP)

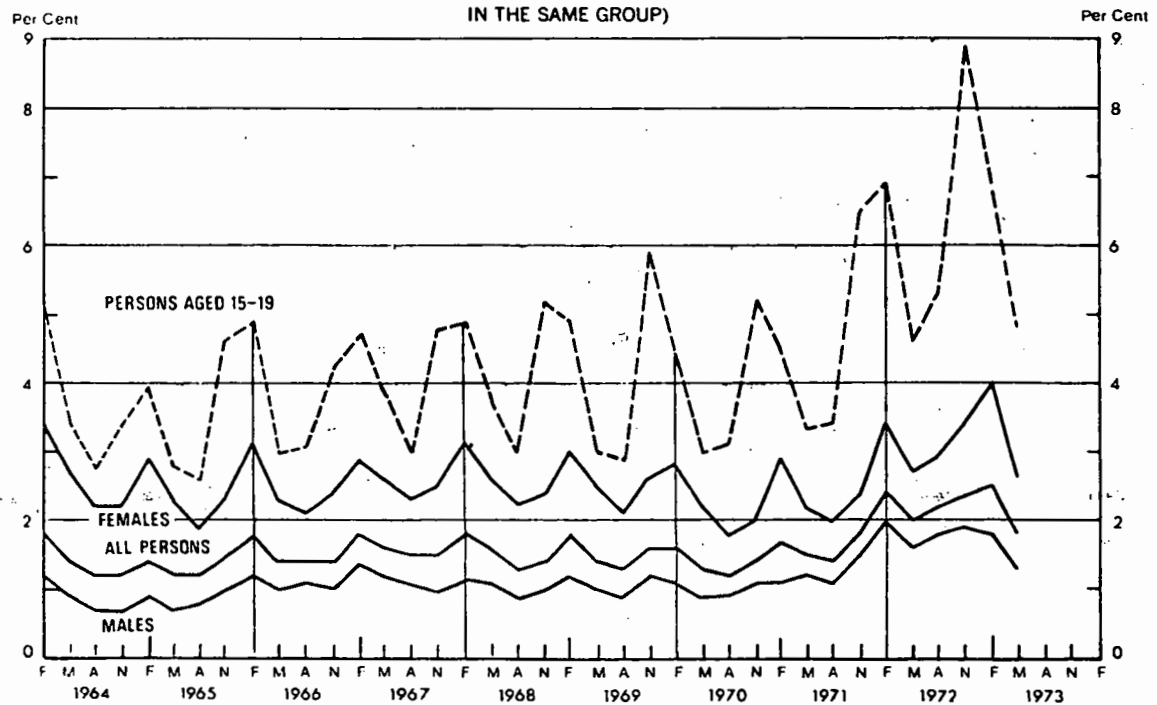


TABLE 1. - CIVILIAN POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER (a), BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Month	Employed (b)			Unemployed (b)		Total labour force (b)		Not in labour force ('000)	Civilian population aged 15 and over (a) ('000)
	Agri-culture ('000)	Other industries ('000)	Total ('000)	Number ('000)	Per cent of labour force	Number ('000)	Per cent of population (c)		
MALES									
1972 -									
February (d)	355.8	3,350.6	3,706.4	74.8	2.0	3,781.3	82.8	784.3	4,565.6
May	345.3	3,371.3	3,716.6	61.0	1.6	3,777.6	82.5	800.1	4,577.7
August	351.4	3,349.6	3,701.0	67.4	1.8	3,768.4	82.3	809.9	4,578.3
August (e)	344.4	3,356.6							
November (e)	315.8	3,415.1	3,730.9	70.7	1.9	3,801.6	82.5	807.5	4,609.1
1973 -									
February (e)	311.2	3,452.2	3,763.4	67.9	1.8	3,831.3	82.6	806.8	4,638.1
May (e)	309.4	3,453.7	3,763.1	50.7	1.3	3,813.8	82.0	839.0	4,652.8
MARRIED WOMEN									
1972 -									
February (d)	58.7	988.5	1,047.2	33.1	3.1	1,080.3	35.2	1,989.8	3,070.1
May	51.7	1,012.8	1,064.5	27.8	2.5	1,092.3	35.2	2,011.8	3,104.1
August	55.8	1,047.8	1,103.6	27.6	2.4	1,131.2	36.5	1,971.3	3,102.5
November (e)	61.7	1,080.8	1,142.5	28.2	2.4	1,170.7	37.5	1,949.7	3,120.4
1973 -									
February (e)	59.4	1,068.4	1,127.8	39.3	3.4	1,167.1	37.2	1,971.2	3,138.4
May (e)	54.5	1,099.9	1,154.4	25.9	2.2	1,180.3	37.3	1,980.8	3,161.1
OTHER FEMALES (f)									
1972 -									
February (d)	12.6	680.5	693.1	28.0	3.9	721.1	46.1	843.5	1,564.5
May	11.1	670.2	681.2	21.4	3.0	702.6	45.6	839.4	1,542.0
August	12.2	662.2	674.3	26.4	3.8	700.7	45.3	845.5	1,546.2
November (e)	12.2	681.3	693.5	37.3	5.1	730.9	46.6	837.2	1,568.1
1973 -									
February (e)	11.3	694.6	705.9	36.3	4.9	742.3	47.0	836.3	1,578.5
May (e)	10.5	672.9	683.4	23.6	3.3	707.0	45.1	859.1	1,566.1
ALL FEMALES									
1972 -									
February (d)	71.3	1,669.0	1,740.3	61.0	3.4	1,801.3	38.9	2,833.3	4,634.6
May	62.8	1,683.0	1,745.8	49.2	2.7	1,794.9	38.6	2,851.2	4,646.1
August	68.0	1,710.0	1,778.0	53.9	2.9	1,831.9	39.4	2,816.8	4,648.7
August (e)	65.6	1,712.4							
November (e)	73.9	1,762.1	1,836.0	65.5	3.4	1,901.6	40.6	2,786.9	4,688.5
1973 -									
February (e)	70.7	1,763.0	1,833.7	75.6	4.0	1,909.4	40.5	2,807.5	4,716.9
May (e)	65.0	1,772.8	1,837.8	49.5	2.6	1,887.3	39.9	2,839.9	4,727.2
PERSONS									
1972 -									
February (d)	427.2	5,019.6	5,446.8	135.8	2.4	5,582.6	60.7	3,617.6	9,200.2
May	408.1	5,054.3	5,462.4	110.2	2.0	5,572.6	60.4	3,651.2	9,223.8
August	419.4	5,059.6	5,478.9	121.3	2.2	5,600.3	60.7	3,626.7	9,227.0
August (e)	410.0	5,068.9							
November (e)	389.7	5,177.2	5,566.9	136.3	2.4	5,703.2	61.3	3,594.4	9,297.6
1973 -									
February (e)	382.0	5,215.2	5,597.2	143.5	2.5	5,740.7	61.4	3,614.3	9,355.0
May (e)	374.4	5,226.5	5,600.9	100.2	1.8	5,701.1	60.8	3,678.9	9,380.0

(a) For a note on persons excluded see introductory note, page 1. (b) For definitions see page 2, paragraphs 2 to 6. (c) The labour force in each group as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over in the same group (labour force participation rate). (d) See page 4, paragraph 19. (e) The industry estimates for employed persons are based on the Australian Standard Industrial Classification. See page 2, paragraphs 8 and 9. (f) Never married, widowed and divorced.

NOTE. See page 3, paragraph 11, regarding the effect of the new sample.

TABLE 2. - CIVILIAN LABOUR FORCE (a) : EMPLOYMENT STATUS, BIRTHPLACE AND YEAR OF ARRIVAL IN AUSTRALIA, MAY 1973

Birthplace and year of arrival	Employed (b) ('000)	Unemployed (b)		Total labour force (b)	
		Number ('000)	Per cent of labour force (c)	Number ('000)	Per cent of population (d)
MALES					
Born in Australia	2,730.3	33.9	1.2	2,764.2	82.1
Born outside Australia –					
Arrived before 1955	354.3	4.4	1.2	358.7	77.6
1955 to 1961	229.8	4.8	2.0	234.5	92.0
1962 to 1966	164.4	*	*	166.7	88.0
1967 to 1971	226.6	*	*	230.2	91.0
Jan. 1972 to survey date	57.7	*	*	59.5	86.8
Total born outside Australia	1,032.8	16.9	1.6	1,049.6	85.5
MARRIED WOMEN					
Born in Australia	806.6	15.8	1.9	822.5	35.1
Born outside Australia –					
Arrived before 1955	99.5	*	*	102.6	37.5
1955 to 1961	86.4	*	*	87.6	49.0
1962 to 1966	59.2	*	*	60.7	43.9
1967 to 1971	86.3	*	*	88.6	50.1
Jan. 1972 to survey date	16.4	*	*	18.4	47.0
Total born outside Australia	347.8	10.0	2.8	357.8	44.4
ALL FEMALES					
Born in Australia	1,364.6	33.7	2.4	1,398.3	39.1
Born outside Australia –					
Arrived before 1955	127.0	*	*	130.6	34.2
1955 to 1961	114.3	*	*	116.3	50.4
1962 to 1966	84.9	*	*	87.8	48.3
1967 to 1971	118.2	*	*	121.9	52.9
Jan. 1972 to survey date	28.8	*	*	32.3	52.2
Total born outside Australia	473.2	15.7	3.2	488.9	45.0
PERSONS					
Born in Australia	4,094.9	67.6	1.6	4,162.5	60.0
Born outside Australia –					
Arrived before 1955	481.3	8.0	1.6	489.3	58.0
1955 to 1961	344.1	6.8	1.9	350.9	72.2
1962 to 1966	249.4	5.2	2.0	254.5	68.6
1967 to 1971	344.8	7.2	2.1	352.0	72.8
Jan. 1972 to survey date	86.5	(e)5.4	(e)5.8	91.8	70.4
Total born outside Australia	1,506.0	32.6	2.1	1,538.6	66.5

(a) Aged 15 years and over. (b) For definitions see page 2, paragraphs 2 to 4. (c) The unemployed in each group as a percentage of the civilian labour force in the same group. (d) The labour force in each group as a percentage of the civilian non-institutional population aged 15 years and over in the same group. Persons in institutions for whom, for the purposes of the survey, the institution was regarded as their usual place of residence, have been omitted, since it is not practicable to ascertain the birthplace or year of arrival in Australia for such persons. (e) See explanation of these figures in paragraph 10, page 3.

* Less than or based on a figure less than 4,000. See page 16, paragraph 11.

TABLE 3. - SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SERIES (a)

Month	Persons in the labour force (b) ('000)							
	Males		Married women		All females		Total	
	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Original	Seasonally adjusted
1972 -								
February (c)	3,781.3	3,759.4	1,080.3	1,086.9	1,801.3	1,793.3	5,582.6	5,554.2
May	3,777.6	3,774.3	1,092.3	1,099.1	1,794.9	1,801.8	5,572.6	5,574.3
August	3,768.4	3,785.1	1,131.2	1,138.9	1,831.9	1,848.7	5,600.3	5,634.8
November	3,801.6	3,810.1	1,170.7	1,148.7	1,901.6	1,885.2	5,703.2	5,695.4
1973 -								
February	3,831.3	3,809.5	1,167.1	1,174.2	1,909.4	1,901.5	5,740.7	5,712.1
May	3,813.8	3,810.3	1,180.3	1,187.7	1,887.3	1,894.7	5,701.1	5,702.8

Month	Participation rate (per cent) (d)				Unemployed persons ('000) (e)					
	Males		Females		Males		Females		Total	
	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Original	Seasonally adjusted
1972 -										
February (c)	82.8	82.4	38.9	38.8	74.8	67.8	61.0	49.6	135.8	117.6
May	82.5	82.5	38.6	38.9	61.0	62.0	49.2	51.1	110.2	112.6
August	82.3	82.5	39.4	39.7	67.4	76.0	53.9	63.9	121.3	139.3
November	82.5	82.7	40.6	40.2	70.7	68.6	65.5	68.1	136.3	136.7
1973 -										
February	82.6	82.2	40.5	40.4	67.9	61.9	75.6	61.4	143.5	124.7
May	82.0	81.9	39.9	40.1	50.7	51.5	49.5	51.4	100.2	102.4

(a) For details of methods used in seasonally adjusting these series see *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators 1973* (Reference No. 1.10). (b) Civilians aged 15 years and over. For definitions see page 2, paragraphs 2 to 4. (c) See page 4, paragraph 19. (d) The labour force in each group as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over in the same group. (e) Civilians aged 15 years and over. For definition see page 2, paragraph 4.

NOTE. See page 3, paragraph 11, regarding the effect of the new sample.

TABLE 4. - CIVILIAN LABOUR FORCE (a), BY AGE, MAY 1973

Age group (years)	Number ('000)				Per cent of population (b)			
	Males	Married women	All females	Persons	Males	Married women	All females	Persons
15-19	346.1	24.2	311.3	657.4	59.2	48.3	54.9	57.1
20-24	501.1	176.5	338.3	839.4	90.4	49.9	62.0	76.3
25-34	932.6	314.6	392.2	1,324.8	97.3	38.4	43.0	70.8
35-44	750.9	311.8	361.0	1,111.9	97.4	47.1	49.5	74.1
45-54	715.3	257.5	324.2	1,039.4	94.8	41.3	44.2	69.8
55-59	272.0	66.4	97.2	369.2	89.5	27.6	30.6	59.6
60-64	198.7	22.6	42.6	241.3	75.9	12.5	15.6	45.1
65 and over	97.1	6.7	20.5	117.7	20.9	2.9	3.2	10.6
Total	3,813.8	1,180.3	1,887.3	5,701.1	82.0	37.3	39.9	60.8

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. For definitions see page 2, paragraphs 2 to 4. (b) The labour force in each group as a percentage of the civilian population in the same group (labour force participation rate).

TABLE 5. – LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES (a), BY AGE AND BIRTHPLACE, MAY 1973
(Per cent)

Age group (years)	Born in Australia			Born outside Australia		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
15-19	59.8	54.4	57.1	58.2	60.1	59.2
20-24	91.6	62.0	76.8	91.7	62.8	77.3
25-34	98.4	40.9	69.7	97.1	48.8	74.7
35-44	98.1	46.7	72.1	97.8	56.9	79.6
45-54	95.4	42.6	68.6	96.7	49.6	75.0
55-59	90.3	29.8	58.0	91.2	36.9	68.1
60-64	75.7	15.6	44.1	79.8	16.2	50.4
65 and over	22.3	3.4	11.1	20.9	3.6	11.8
Total	82.1	39.1	60.0	85.5	45.0	66.5

(a) The labour force in each group as a percentage of the civilian non-institutional population aged 15 years and over in the same group. Persons in institutions for whom, for the purposes of the survey, the institution was regarded as their usual place of residence, have been omitted, since it is not practicable to ascertain the birthplace of such persons.

TABLE 6. – EMPLOYED PERSONS (a), BY HOURS WORKED (b), MAY 1973

	Males	Married women	Other females (c)	All females	Persons
NUMBER ('000)					
Hours worked –					
0(d)	239.3	103.4	46.5	149.9	389.2
1-15	71.1	169.8	48.2	218.0	289.1
16-29	105.1	174.7	34.4	209.1	314.2
30-34	180.0	87.9	41.4	129.3	309.3
35-39	333.5	142.8	143.9	286.7	620.2
40	1,482.1	362.7	295.5	658.3	2,140.4
41-44	193.6	27.6	26.6	54.2	247.8
45-48	345.5	27.4	18.4	45.9	391.3
49 and over	812.9	57.9	28.5	86.5	899.4
Total	3,763.1	1,154.4	683.4	1,837.8	5,600.9
Full-time workers (e)	3,633.9	736.1	597.5	1,333.6	4,967.5
Part-time workers (e)	129.2	418.3	85.9	504.2	633.4
AVERAGE HOURS WORKED (f)					
Manufacturing	40.1	33.6	37.7	34.7	38.7
All industries –					
Full-time workers (e)	41.9	37.3	36.7	37.0	40.6
Part-time workers (e)	14.9	15.5	14.6	15.3	15.2
Total all industries	40.9	29.4	33.9	31.1	37.7

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. For definition see page 2, paragraph 3. (b) Actual hours worked during survey week, not hours paid for. The figures may be affected by public holidays, leave, absenteeism; temporary absence from work due to sickness, accidents and industrial disputes; and work stoppages due to bad weather, plant breakdown, etc. (c) Never married, widowed and divorced. (d) Excludes persons laid off without pay for the whole of survey week; these persons are classified as unemployed. (e) For definitions see page 2, paragraph 5. (f) Persons with jobs who did not work during survey week have been included in the calculation of average hours worked. When recording hours worked, fractions of an hour are disregarded. This procedure results in a slight lowering of the average hours figures.

TABLE 7. – EMPLOYED PERSONS (a) WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS (b), BY REASON, MAY 1973 ('000)

<i>Reason for working less than 35 hours</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Married women</i>	<i>Other females (c)</i>	<i>All females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
USUALLY WORK 35 HOURS OR MORE					
Leave or holiday	336.4	91.8	69.2	161.0	497.4
Own illness or injury	95.9	20.7	12.7	33.4	129.3
Bad weather, breakdown, etc.	9.4	*	*	*	9.9
Began or lost job in survey week	8.7	*	*	5.4	14.1
On short time	*	*	*	*	4.9
Other reasons	12.5	*	*	*	12.8
Total	466.4	117.6	84.5	202.1	668.4
USUALLY WORK LESS THAN 35 HOURS					
Preferred part-time work	113.8	391.8	79.8	471.6	585.5
Lack of work	10.3	14.4	4.3	18.7	28.9
Other reasons	5.0	12.1	*	13.9	18.9
Total	129.2	418.3	85.9	504.2	633.4

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. For definition see page 2, paragraph 3. (b) See note (b) to Table 6. (c) Never married, widowed and divorced.

* Less than 4,000. See page 16, paragraph 11.

TABLE 8. – EMPLOYED MARRIED WOMEN (a), BY INDUSTRY (b) AND HOURS WORKED (c), MAY 1973 ('000)

Industry division or sub-division	Part-time workers (d)				Full-time workers (d)	Total
	Hours worked (c)			Total		
	Under 16	16-29	30-34			
Agriculture	15.6	10.3	*	29.2	25.3	54.5
Manufacturing	21.6	16.4	7.0	45.0	206.9	251.9
Wholesale and retail trade	48.9	47.3	13.0	109.2	181.6	290.8
Community services (e)	47.1	34.3	13.7	95.1	144.7	239.8
Entertainment, recreation, restaurants, hotels and personal services	42.1	26.8	7.8	76.7	62.7	139.4
Other industries	33.6	20.0	9.5	63.1	114.8	178.0
Total	208.9	155.1	54.3	418.3	736.1	1,154.4

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. For definition see page 2, paragraph 3. (b) See page 2, paragraphs 8 and 9 regarding the change in the basis of industry coding. (c) See note (b) to Table 6. (d) For definitions see page 2, paragraph 5. (e) Comprises health; education, libraries, etc.; welfare and charitable services and religious institutions; and other community services.

* Less than 4,000. See page 16, paragraph 11.

TABLE 9. – UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (a), BY AGE, MAY 1973

<i>Age group (years)</i>	<i>Number unemployed ('000)</i>				<i>Per cent of labour force (b)</i>			
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Married women</i>	<i>All females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Married women</i>	<i>All females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
15-19	14.5	*	16.3	30.8	4.2	*	5.2	4.7
20 and over –								
20-24	9.0	5.7	10.9	19.9	1.8	3.2	3.2	2.4
25-34	9.9	7.9	8.7	18.6	1.1	2.5	2.2	1.4
35-44	7.9	6.7	7.6	15.6	1.1	2.1	2.1	1.4
45-54	4.0	*	4.4	8.4	0.6	*	1.4	0.8
55 and over	5.3	*	*	6.8	0.9	*	*	0.9
Total 20 and over	36.2	24.7	33.2	69.4	1.0	2.1	2.1	1.4
Total	50.7	25.9	49.5	100.2	1.3	2.2	2.6	1.8

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. For definition see page 2, paragraph 4. (b) The unemployed in each group as a percentage of the civilian labour force in the same group.

* Less than or based on a figure less than 4,000. See page 16, paragraph 11.

TABLE 10. - UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (a), BY AGE AND BIRTHPLACE, MAY 1973

Age group (years)	Number unemployed ('000)			Per cent of labour force (b)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
BORN IN AUSTRALIA						
15-19	11.7	12.3	24.1	3.9	4.7	4.3
20 and over -						
20-24	6.2	8.5	14.7	1.6	3.2	2.2
25-34	6.0	4.8	10.8	0.9	1.8	1.2
35 and over	9.9	8.1	18.1	0.7	1.4	0.9
Total 20 and over	22.1	21.4	43.5	0.9	1.9	1.2
Total	33.9	33.7	67.6	1.2	2.4	1.6
BORN OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA						
15-19	*	4.0	6.7	*	8.3	7.1
20 and over -						
20-24	*	*	5.2	*	*	3.0
25-34	*	*	7.9	*	*	1.9
35 and over	7.3	5.5	12.8	1.2	2.2	1.5
Total 20 and over	14.1	11.8	25.9	1.4	2.7	1.8
Total	16.9	15.7	32.6	1.6	3.2	2.1

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. For definition see page 2, paragraph 4. (b) The unemployed in each group as a percentage of the civilian labour force in the same group.

* Less than or based on a figure less than 4,000. See page 16, paragraph 11.

TABLE 11. - UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (a), STATE CAPITAL CITIES AND OTHER AREAS (Per cent)

Month	State capital cities (b)			Other areas		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
1972 -						
February	2.3	3.2	2.6	1.4	3.9	2.1
May	1.8	2.4	2.0	1.4	3.4	1.9
August	1.9	2.7	2.2	1.6	3.5	2.2
November	1.9	3.0	2.3	1.8	4.4	2.6
1973 -						
February	1.8	3.8	2.5	1.8	4.4	2.5
May	1.2	2.1	1.6	1.5	3.6	2.1

(a) The unemployed in each group as a percentage of the civilian labour force in the same group. (b) The figures relate to persons residing within the boundaries of the relevant Statistical Divisions. Explanatory notes on the delimitation of urban boundaries and maps showing the boundaries of the capital city Statistical Divisions were published in *Census of the Commonwealth of Australia, 30 June 1966 - Field Count Statement No. 4*.

NOTE. See page 3, paragraph 11, regarding the effect of the new sample.

TABLE 12. - UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (a) LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME AND LOOKING FOR PART-TIME WORK, MAY 1973

	Males	Married women	Other females (b)	All females	Persons
Looking for full-time work (c) -					
Number ('000)	45.1	13.6	19.6	33.1	78.3
Unemployment rate (d) (per cent)	1.2	1.8	3.2	2.4	1.6
Looking for part-time work (e) -					
Number ('000)	5.6	12.3	4.0	16.3	21.9
Unemployment rate (d) (per cent)	4.1	2.9	4.4	3.1	3.3

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. For definition see page 2, paragraph 4. (b) Never married, widowed and divorced. (c) Includes persons laid off for the whole week from full-time jobs. (d) The number of unemployed in each group as a percentage of the labour force in each group. (e) Includes persons laid off for the whole week from part-time jobs.

TABLE 13. - UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (a), BY DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (b), MAY 1973

	Males	Married women	Other females (c)	All females	Persons
Number unemployed ('000) -					
Under 2 weeks	9.4	7.1	4.2	11.2	20.6
2 weeks and under 4 weeks	15.8	7.5	6.1	13.6	29.4
4 weeks and under 8 weeks	10.8	5.2	*	8.4	19.2
8 weeks and under 13 weeks	5.3	*	4.4	6.6	11.9
13 weeks and over	9.4	*	5.8	9.7	19.1
Total	50.7	25.9	23.6	49.5	100.2
Average duration of unemployment (d) (weeks) -					
Aged 15-19 years	5.4	*	8.5	8.3	6.9
Aged 20 years and over	9.8	7.1	12.1	8.3	9.1
All unemployed persons	8.5	7.0	9.8	8.3	8.4

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. For definition see page 2, paragraph 4. (b) Period from the time the person began looking for work, or was laid off, to the end of survey week. (c) Never married, widowed and divorced. (d) Periods of unemployment are recorded only in complete weeks; the averages shown are affected accordingly.

* Less than, or based on a figure less than 4,000. See page 16, paragraph 11.

TABLE 14. - UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (a), BY DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (b), BY AGE, ETC., MAY 1973 ('000)

Duration of unemployment (b) (weeks)	Age (years)		Married	Not married (c)	Looking for -		Total
	15-19	20 and over			Full-time work (d)	Part-time work (e)	
MALES							
Under 2	*	5.6	*	6.7	7.6	*	9.4
2 and under 4	5.2	10.7	6.3	9.5	14.0	*	15.8
4 and under 13	*	13.0	7.1	9.1	15.0	*	16.1
13 and over	*	6.9	*	6.0	8.6	*	9.4
Total	14.5	36.2	19.4	31.3	45.1	5.6	50.7
FEMALES							
Under 2	*	8.8	7.1	4.2	6.4	4.9	11.2
2 and under 4	4.8	8.8	7.5	6.0	9.3	4.3	13.6
4 and under 13	5.4	9.5	7.4	7.5	10.9	4.1	15.0
13 and over	*	6.1	*	5.8	6.6	*	9.7
Total	16.3	33.2	25.9	23.6	33.1	16.3	49.5
PERSONS							
Under 2	6.2	14.4	9.7	10.9	14.0	6.6	20.6
2 and under 4	10.0	19.4	13.9	15.6	23.2	6.2	29.4
4 and under 13	8.5	22.6	14.5	16.6	25.8	5.3	31.1
13 and over	6.1	13.0	7.3	11.8	15.2	*	19.1
Total	30.8	69.4	45.3	54.9	78.3	21.9	100.2

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. For definition see page 2, paragraph 4. (b) Period from the time the person began looking for work, or was laid off, to the end of survey week. (c) Never married, widowed and divorced. (d) Includes persons laid off for the whole week from full-time jobs. (e) Includes persons laid off for the whole week from part-time jobs.

* Less than 4,000. See page 16, paragraph 11.

TABLE 15. - UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (a), BY INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATION, MAY 1973
(Per cent)

<i>Industry division or sub-division (b)</i>	<i>Unemployment rate</i>	<i>Occupation group (c)</i>	<i>Unemployment rate</i>
Agriculture	1.8	Professional and technical workers	1.0
Manufacturing	1.8	Clerical workers	1.5
Construction	1.7	Sales workers	2.3
Wholesale and retail trade	1.5	Farmers, fishermen, timbergetters, etc.	1.8
Community services (d)	1.2	Transport and communication workers	1.3
Entertainment, recreation, restaurants, hotels and personal services	2.9	Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c. (e)	1.7
Other industries	1.1	Service, sport and recreation workers	2.6
		Other occupations	*
Total	1.8	Total	1.8

(a) The unemployed in each group as a percentage of the civilian labour force in the same group. (b) Classified according to ASIC. See page 2, paragraphs 8 and 9. Based on industry of last job. (c) Based on occupation of last job. (d) See note (e) to Table 8. (e) Includes miners, quarrymen and related workers.

* Based on a figure less than 4,000. See page 16, paragraph 11.

TABLE 16. - UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (a) : INDUSTRY, OCCUPATION AND DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT, MAY 1973
(*000)

<i>Industry division or sub-division (b)</i>	<i>Number unemployed</i>	<i>Occupation group (c)</i>	<i>Number unemployed</i>
Agriculture	7.0	Professional and technical workers	6.7
Manufacturing	25.2	Clerical workers	13.7
Under 2 weeks	5.2	Under 4 weeks	8.0
2 and under 4 weeks	7.1	4 weeks and over	5.7
4 and under 8 weeks	5.0	Sales workers	11.1
8 weeks and over	7.8	Under 4 weeks	4.6
Construction	8.5	4 weeks and over	6.5
Under 4 weeks	4.5	Farmers, fishermen, timbergetters, etc.	8.1
Wholesale and retail trade	18.2	Transport and communication workers	4.3
Under 4 weeks	8.4	Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers, etc. (e)	33.4
4 and under 8 weeks	6.3	Under 2 weeks	7.1
8 weeks and over	5.6	2 and under 4 weeks	10.4
Community services (d)	8.0	4 and under 8 weeks	6.6
Entertainment, recreation, restaurants, hotels and personal services	10.3	8 and under 13 weeks	4.1
Under 4 weeks	4.8	13 weeks and over	5.1
4 weeks and over	5.5	Service, sport and recreation workers	12.8
Other industries	14.0	Under 4 weeks	4.8
Looking for first job	9.0	4 weeks and over	8.0
Under 4 weeks	4.9	Other occupations	*
4 weeks and over	4.1	Looking for first job	9.0
Total	100.2	Under 4 weeks	4.9
		4 weeks and over	4.1
		Total	100.2

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. For definition see page 2, paragraph 4. (b) See note (b) to Table 15. (c) See note (c) to Table 15. (d) See note (e) to Table 8. (e) See note (e) to Table 15.

* Less than 4,000. See page 16, paragraph 11.

TABLE 17. - PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, BY MAJOR ACTIVITY (a)
(^{'000})

Month	Kept house	Went to school, etc.	Retired or voluntarily idle	Permanently unable to work	Institutionalised (b)	Total
MALES						
1972 -						
February (c)	15.3	228.5	453.1	32.6	54.8	784.3
May	11.6	275.2	424.5	36.2	52.6	800.1
August	9.9	279.5	428.7	38.6	53.2	809.9
November	11.6	266.3	433.7	44.1	51.7	807.5
1973 -						
February	9.4	197.5	498.2	40.4	61.4	806.8
May	9.7	269.0	462.1	41.6	56.7	839.0
MARRIED WOMEN						
1972 -						
February (c)	1,947.3	5.4	23.0	*	11.1	1,989.8
May	1,969.2	4.4	21.3	*	13.1	2,011.8
August	1,929.6	6.0	21.9	*	11.1	1,971.3
November	1,902.1	8.5	23.4	5.3	10.4	1,949.7
1973 -						
February	1,928.6	4.7	21.9	5.0	11.1	1,971.2
May	1,934.1	5.4	25.4	5.9	10.0	1,980.8
OTHER FEMALES (d)						
1972 -						
February (c)	468.6	194.3	111.4	12.1	57.1	843.5
May	442.4	221.9	103.9	13.2	58.0	839.4
August	429.7	225.8	116.6	15.3	58.1	845.5
November	438.1	217.3	108.2	22.8	50.8	837.2
1973 -						
February	453.9	171.4	136.2	19.8	55.0	836.3
May	445.3	223.4	114.8	18.2	57.5	859.1
ALL FEMALES						
1972 -						
February (c)	2,415.9	199.6	134.4	15.1	68.2	2,833.3
May	2,411.6	226.3	125.1	17.0	71.2	2,851.2
August	2,359.3	231.8	138.5	18.0	69.2	2,816.8
November	2,340.2	225.8	131.6	28.1	61.3	2,786.9
1973 -						
February	2,382.5	176.1	158.1	24.8	66.1	2,807.5
May	2,379.4	228.8	140.2	24.1	67.4	2,839.9
PERSONS						
1972 -						
February (c)	2,431.3	428.1	587.5	47.7	123.0	3,617.6
May	2,423.2	501.5	549.6	53.2	123.7	3,651.2
August	2,369.2	511.3	567.2	56.7	122.4	3,626.7
November	2,351.8	492.1	565.3	72.2	113.0	3,594.4
1973 -						
February	2,391.8	373.6	656.3	65.1	127.5	3,614.3
May	2,389.1	497.8	602.3	65.7	124.1	3,678.9

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. For definitions see page 2, paragraph 6. (b) Comprises inmates of goals, patients in hospitals, sanatoria, etc., for whom, for the purpose of the survey, the institution was regarded as their dwelling. (c) See page 4, paragraph 19. (d) Never married, widowed and divorced.

* Less than 4,000. See page 16, paragraph 11.

NOTE. See page 3, paragraph 11, regarding effect of the new sample.

TECHNICAL NOTE

Estimation procedure

Estimates are derived from the quarterly population survey by use of a complex ratio estimation procedure, which ensures that the survey estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age and sex, rather than to the age and sex distribution within the sample itself.

Redesign and reselection of the sample

2. The design of the sample on which the labour force survey is based has been thoroughly investigated and a more efficient sampling plan has been devised. Data obtained in the 1971 Census of Population and Housing have been used to reselect the sample in accordance with the improved design.

3. Before the redesign, a one per cent sample throughout Australia was used. About 40,000 private dwellings (houses, flats, etc.) as well as a sample of other dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.) were included. In the new sample the proportion of the population included varies from State to State, but, in aggregate about two thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia is included. The new sample consists of about 27,000 private dwellings as well as a sample of other dwellings.

4. In order to appraise changes in the estimates due to the introduction of the new sample, it was phased in over three surveys. In the May 1972 survey half of the new sample from metropolitan areas replaced half of the old metropolitan sample. In August 1972 the other half of the new metropolitan sample, together with half of the new sample from non-metropolitan areas, was introduced. In November 1972 the changeover was completed with the introduction of the remaining half of the new non-metropolitan sample.

Reliability of the estimates

5. Since the estimates in this bulletin are based on a sample, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census using the same questionnaires and procedures. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample, and not the whole population, was enumerated. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained from a comparable complete enumeration, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

6. Space does not allow for the separate indication of the standard errors of all estimates in this bulletin. A table of standard errors for general application is given below (Table A). These figures will not give a precise measure of standard error of a particular estimate since they are averages based on calculations for a limited number of past surveys over a wide range of labour force characteristics. However, they will provide an indication of the magnitude of the standard error of any particular estimate for any particular survey. An example of the use of Table A is as follows: if the estimate obtained from the sample is 100,000 and the standard error is 3 per cent of the estimate, i.e. 3,000, there are about two chances in three that the true figure is within the range 97,000 to 103,000 and about nineteen chances in twenty that this figure is between 94,000 and 106,000.

7. Standard errors of estimates from the new sample have not yet been calculated and therefore the standard errors shown are, strictly speaking, applicable only to results based on the old sample. However, the decrease in sample size and the increase in efficiency resulting from the redesign would have opposite effects on the standard errors and it is considered that the standard errors in Table A will still give a reasonable indication of the sampling variability of the May survey results.

8. The quarter-to-quarter change in the level of an estimate is also subject to sampling variability. The standard error of the change depends on the standard error of the level of the estimate, rather than on the change itself. Final estimates of the standard errors of movement have not yet been calculated, but an indication of the magnitude of standard errors of quarter-to-quarter change up to the February 1972 survey is given in Table B, below. The estimates of standard error of quarter-to-quarter change apply only to estimates of change between two consecutive quarters. Changes between corresponding quarters of consecutive years, or between two other non-consecutive quarters, will generally be subject to somewhat greater sampling variability than is indicated in the Table below. Furthermore, changes during the period February to November 1972 will have greater standard errors than indicated in Table B, because of the introduction of the new sample. An example of the use of Table B is as follows: if the estimates for two successive quarters were 100,000 and 110,000, then from Table A it can be seen that the standard errors of these two estimates would be of the order of 3,000, and from Table B that the standard error of the quarter-to-quarter change would be 3,600. That is, there are about two chances in three that the quarter-to-quarter change lies between 6,400 and 13,600 and about nineteen chances in twenty that it lies between 2,800 and 17,200.

TABLE A
STANDARD ERRORS OF QUARTERLY ESTIMATES

Size of estimate (persons)	Approximate standard error of estimates	
	Persons	Per cent of estimate
4,000	750	19
5,000	850	17
10,000	1,100	11
20,000	1,400	7
50,000	2,000	4
100,000	3,000	3
200,000	4,000	2
500,000	5,000	1
1,000,000	5,500	0.6
2,000,000	8,000	0.4

TABLE B
**STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES OF
QUARTER-TO-QUARTER CHANGE**
(Persons)

Standard error of quarterly level	Standard error of quarter-to-quarter change
1,000	1,300
2,000	2,500
3,000	3,600
4,000	4,300
5,000	4,700
6,000	5,000
7,000	5,200
8,000	5,300

9. The standard errors of estimates relating to agricultural employment are generally somewhat higher than the standard errors of other estimates of the same magnitude. Estimates for females also tend to have higher standard errors than estimates of equivalent size for males in similar employment categories.

10. The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the numerator and the size of the denominator. However, the percent standard error of the estimated percentage will generally be lower than the per cent standard error of the estimate of the numerator. The per cent standard errors of the numerators can be obtained from Table A.

11. As the standard errors in Table A show, the smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error. Very small estimates would thus be subject to such high standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. In the tables in this bulletin, estimates less than 4,000 have not been shown. Although figures for these small components can in some cases be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

12. The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the standard error, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as the non-sampling error, and they may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or only a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

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NOTE: Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr I. Neville on 63 9111 extension 2347 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.